

Five Domains of Conscience

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IU Conscience Project

DOMAIN	EXTERNAL STAGE (6 and under)
Moralization of Attachment Bedrock value: connectedness	Mutual affection and caring establishes parent-child relationship as primary, powerful, and permanent. Security-empathy-oughtness bond engenders trust and trust-worthiness.
Moral-emotional Responsiveness Bedrock value: harmony	Emotions are modulated around a baseline state of am good-feel good. Moral teaching arouses fear-related emotions associated with harm and trouble as well as pleasant emotions associated with pleasing parents. Wrongdoing quickly righted with desire to return to play.
Moral Valuation Authority-derived Peer-derived Self-derived Bedrock value: balance	Value-sensitive routines are learned, fostering compliance cooperative play pride in basic goodness
Moral Volition Bedrock value: autonomy	A commitment to restraint is chosen. Impish pleasure is restrained.
Conceptualization Bedrock value: meaning	To be good means doing what parents say. To be bad means getting in trouble.

DOMAIN	BRAIN-HEART STAGE (ages seven to eleven)
Moralization of Attachment Bedrock value: connectedness	Moral attachment is strengthened through parent reinforcement of rules. Positive reinforcement includes affection, praise, and privileges. Parents also use anger, limit setting, time outs, grounding, spanking, and withdrawal of affection or privileges. Other adults, especially teachers, strengthen the power of moral attachment as extenders of parent authority.
Moral-emotional Responsiveness Bedrock value: harmony	Sensitivity to displeasing. Moral anxiety over secret misdeeds. Anticipatory anxiety used to prevent moral mistakes. Discovery of moral mood. Compliance and pleasing insure a good mood. Psychophysiological awareness at surface of body. Reparation and healing involve more steps.
Moral Valuation Authority-derived Peer-derived Self-derived Bedrock value: balance	Value-sensitive rules are deduced from parent-prescribed routines and other moral learning situations. Internalized values include rule referencing reciprocal exactness in fairness and caring skill development, including social skills
Moral Volition Bedrock value: autonomy	Commitment to mastery and sufficiency. Rules are interpreted rigidly.
Conceptualization Bedrock value: meaning	Inside me, my brain lets me know about right and wrong. My parents give it rules for me to live by. My feelings also let me know when I have done wrong.

DOMAIN	PERSONIFIED STAGE (ages twelve to thirteen)
Moralization of Attachment Bedrock value: connectedness	Moralization of attachment is strengthened through older child's understanding of parenting role and its responsibilities. Parent discipline is affirmed as a right and a duty. Basis of parent power is experience, wisdom, and responsibility. Parent authority has been internalized. Dialogues of disagreement may occur without break in security-empathy-oughtness bond.
Moral-emotional Responsiveness Bedrock value: harmony	Development of short-term depressive symptoms over wrongdoing. Morally associated psychophysiological responses noted in interior of body. Reparative processes involve sustained sorrow, desire to process wrong doing with outside party, and desire to seek advice. Healing involves solitude, listening to music, reading, talking to friends, showing affection.
Moral Valuation Authority-derived Peer-derived Self-derived Bedrock value: balance	Realization that value-sensitive rules are embedded in the context of relationships. Such rules value trust in authority initiating fairness and caring with peers examining context in rule choice
Moral Volition Bedrock value: autonomy	Commitment to virtuous striving.
Conceptualization Bedrock value: meaning	My conscience is like a little someone within me that informs, guides, chides, and encourages me to be a better person.

DOMAIN	CONFUSED STAGE (ages fourteen to fifteen)
Moralization of Attachment Bedrock value: connectedness	Episodic devaluation of parents' and other authority figures' ideas, interspersed with sharply contrasting idealization. Other adults may be seen as idols. Strength of security-empathy-oughtness bond fosters a mostly compliant and respectful attitude, in spite of episodic devaluation. Parents provide moral staying power during the individuation process.
Moral-emotional Responsiveness Bedrock value: harmony	Sensitivity to subtle forms of psychological exposure. Taking a moral stand creates anxiety. Strong peaks and valleys in mood associated with moral success or wrongdoing. Nagging thoughts, empty feeling, moodiness, desire for solitude, irritability, tearfulness, and decreased social or academic performance. Spurts of energy take on healing value.
Moral Valuation Authority-derived Peer-derived Self-derived Bedrock value: balance	Requirement to deal with dissonance and competition between values of peer group and popular culture versus values derived from authority. Emerging values depend on Idealized role models Achieving positive results from conflict resolution and cooperation Find one's true self
Moral Volition Bedrock value: autonomy	Commitment to ideals.
Conceptualization Bedrock value: meaning	My conscience is a mixed up entity inside me. Sometimes it helps me and sometimes it doesn't. It doesn't know everything. I have a lot to sort out.

DOMAIN	INTEGRATING STAGE (ages sixteen and older)
Moralization of Attachment Bedrock value: connectedness	Security-empathy-oughtness bond allows maintenance of respect for parents in spite of ambivalent feelings about rearing practices. Role of trustworthy adult is played out with younger children and siblings. Thoughts occur about the future parenting role.
Moral-emotional Responsiveness Bedrock value: harmony	Development of moral peace and courage through mastery of anxiety. Searches personal emotional responses for associated moral features. Recognizes that some reparation may never be complete. Feelings of tolerance toward self and others emerge.
Moral Valuation Authority-derived Peer-derived Self-derived Bedrock value: balance	Realization that no rule applies to every situation. One must live with ones convictions. Emerging values include respect for hierarchy in any social organization liberation from peer pressure; appreciation of interconnectedness of humankind; concern for larger community respect for one's future progeny
Moral Volition Bedrock value: autonomy	Commitment to individual responsibility.
Conceptualization Bedrock value: meaning	My conscious is